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Attorney for Plaintiff, Oralia Garcia Esparza

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FRESNO DIVISION**

Oralia Garcia Esparza,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:21-cv-00991-SKO

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD
AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY
FEES AND EXPENSES PURSUANT
TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO
JUSTICE ACT; ORDER RE:
STIPULATION AND DENYING
MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES
AS MOOT**

(Docs. 25 & 27)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$8,000.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and cost in the amount of ZERO dollars (\$0.00) under 28 U.S.C. §1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

1 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will
2 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to
3 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability
4 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset
5 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After
6 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are
7 subject to any offset.

8 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury
9 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause
10 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Counsel, pursuant to
11 the assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered to
12 Plaintiff's counsel, Jonathan O. Peña.

13 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for
14 EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of
15 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall
16 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or
17 Counsel including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in
18 connection with this action.

19 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Counsel and/or Counsel's firm
20 to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the
21 savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

22 Respectfully submitted,

23
24 Dated: October 24, 2022

25 /s/ Jonathan O. Peña
26 JONATHAN O. PEÑA
27 Attorney for Plaintiff

28 Dated: October 24, 2022

PHILLIP A. TALBERT

United States Attorney
MATHEW W. PILE
Associate General Counsel
Office of Program Litigation
Social Security Administration

By: * Margaret Lehrkind
Margaret Lehrkind
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney
Attorneys for Defendant
(*Permission to use electronic signature
obtained via email on October 24, 2022).

ORDER

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation"),

IT IS ORDERED that fees and expenses in the amount of EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$8,000.00) as authorized by the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for attorney's fees (Doc. 25) is DENIED as MOOT.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 25, 2022

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE